



NGC News

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Counterfeit Detection: 1908-S Indian Head Cent

The grading room was recently presented with a 1908-S Indian Head Cent for certification.

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USA Coin Album: Liberty Head Nickels - Part Two

In this month's column, David looks at the remaining issues from 1884 through 1912.

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NumisMedia Market Report: Vasquez Rocks Collection Intrigues Gold Dollar Collectors



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It is not very often that we get the opportunity to write about the sale of a major collection of a particular series. Typically, sales of remarkable collections occur in a fast-paced auction format where bidders compete for every lot.

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From the NGC Archives: 1837 Seated Liberty Dime

Robert M. Patterson became the US Mint's new director in 1835. He had very definite ideas about America's coinage, and one of his favorite icons was the seated figure of Britannia, which had been a fixture on many British coins for years.

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World Coins: Swiss 1994 Devil's Bridge Commemorative

A Swiss commemorative coin captures a folk legend, a structure and the devil all at once.

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Chinese Coins: Hé Wéi Guì. Harmony is Prized.

By Peter Anthony

The desire for harmony is everywhere in Chinese culture and daily life, and numismatics is no exception.

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2013 US Mint America the Beautiful Quarters

This set features all five of the 2013 America the Beautiful quarters struck in silver in proof condition, protectively encased in a clear plastic lens and newly designed packaging.

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New York World Coin Auction Realizes Nearly \$12 Million

A pattern gold Crown struck for Queen Victoria, which was graded NGC Proof 64 Ultra Cameo, sold for \$235,000.

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2012 NGC Registry Award Winners

Posted on 1/11/2013

We applaud everyone for their individual accomplishments in each and every set, and thank all of the members who make the Collectors Society the vibrant community it is today.

Annually, NGC recognizes outstanding achievement in Registry set building. We would like to thank all of the participants in the NGC Registry and congratulate everyone on their individual accomplishments. There are now more than 68,000 collections in the NGC Registry. We are honored to have had the opportunity to review them.

Five winners were selected in each of four competitive categories: Best Classic, Best Modern, Best World and Best Presented. Additionally, we chose four winners for Custom Sets in the following categories: Best Overall, Best World, Most Creative and Most Informative. Finally, we are honoring three outstanding Collectors Journals authors.

Our team of judges reviewed all of the top sets across every category in the Registry. After much consideration, they selected the following sets. Congratulations to our winners!



Best Classic Sets

[Yeoldeone](#) — *Seated Liberty Dimes, 1858-1891, Proof Issue*

1858 is generally considered the year in which the US Mint began publicly offering its proofs for sale, and old coin albums for proofs began with this date. Assembling a complete run of this series through 1891 is an awesome

undertaking, but this collection also maintains a minimum grade of PF 67, which is simply amazing. Some of the most memorable coins include 1858 (PF 67★), 1859 (PF 68★ Cameo) and 1873 Arrows (PF 67). Impressive condition rarities include PF 68 Cameo examples of 1882 and 1886. This is truly remarkable for a series whose highest single mintage was a mere 1,355 pieces.

[*Green Collection — Capped Bust Half Dimes 1829-1837, One-Per-Date*](#)

Half dime coinage resumed in 1829 after a suspension of nearly 25 years. The Capped Bust type of 1829-37 is obtainable in lower Mint State grades, but this stellar collection includes only pieces at or near the top of the NGC Census. In addition, the owner has included for each half dime both the Valentine and Logan-McCloskey die marriage numbers, as well as current rarity ratings and written descriptions. With no fewer than five of nine coins grading MS 67, this is an extremely impressive collection.

[*JAA USA/Philippines Collection — 1908 Proof Set*](#)

1908 was the final year in which the Philadelphia Mint offered proofs of its coins issued for the Philippine Islands under United States administration. The four silver pieces in this seven-coin set were of the new reduced standard and are thus unique to this year's coinage. The owner has provided a wonderful educational platform, as both the series in general and each individual issue are thoroughly described and accompanied by insightful observations. While the grades range from PF 62 through 66, this information is priceless.

[*Ct coins — Lincoln Cents, 1934-1958, Circulation Issue*](#)

The familiar Lincoln Cent matured during this period, which represents the second half of the Wheat Reverse type's issue. This collection is complete by date and mint, with every coin being an ultra high grade gem. Kicking off with a 1934(P) grading an amazing MS 68 RD, other standout coins include a similarly graded 1936 D and all three steel cents certified as MS 68. An unbroken run of MS 67 RD cents spans the years 1944-58, with a spike in the form of a MS 68 RD 1950 S beauty. The rare and highly sought 1955 Doubled Die Obverse variety grades a splendid MS 65 BN.

[*Mayer — Hawthorne Set of Seated Liberty Half Dimes 1858-1873, Proofs*](#)

NGC is pleased to recognize a second complete set of Seated Liberty proofs, this one encompassing the half dime series. With just three exceptions, mintages for these scarce coins did not exceed the hundreds, and the superb gems in this collection are all very rare. Knockout specimens include 1858 (PF 67★), 1859 (PF 68), 1864 (PF 68★ Cameo) and a fabulous 1871 grading PF 69! This is a truly memorable collection of proof half dimes.



Best Modern Sets

[Terry A. Hammes — *Presidential Dollars, 2007-2010, SMS*](#)

From 2005-10 the US Mint issued its Uncirculated Set coins with a satin finish that has been designated SMS by NGC. This impressive collection features all of the Presidential Dollars having this finish. Beginning with the first coin in 2007, all of these pieces are certified as either MS 68 or 69 by NGC and make for an outstanding achievement. Viewing this collection makes one wish that the Mint had continued its satin finish through the end of the Presidential series.

[asdfy — *Statehood Quarters 1999-2008, First Day of Mintage*](#)

The statehood quarter program was a landmark event at its launch in 1999 and propelled modern coins in general into the forefront of the American coin market. Those pieces certified as being from the first day of mintage are limited in number, with figures ranging from nearly 100 coins at the beginning of the program down to just 18 pieces for the Alaska and Hawaii issues! Diminished enthusiasm for the program as it aged thus resulted in some remarkable rarities, and each and every issue is included in this absolutely complete collection, which would be exceedingly difficult to assemble today.

[Dan Hughes — *Lunar Coins, Silver Dollars, Series One and Two \(With Gilt and Colorized\)*](#)

Australia's popular series of Lunar Silver Dollars began in 1999 and continues today. This impressive collection includes each piece in the series, both regular issues and those having gilt surfaces and various colorizations. With but a single exception, each coin has been graded by NGC as MS 70 and is thus unimprovable. Highlights include the 2005 Year of the Rooster coin gilt and colorized, the 2009P Ox issue gilt and the 2013P Snake issue gilt.

[RHF — *Top 50 Most Popular Modern Coins*](#)

The great popularity of modern United States coins prompted the recent publication of a book identifying the most desired issues, and this splendid collection is complete for all 50 pieces. All of the MS coins have been certified by NGC as MS 70, while all of the proofs grade PF 70, the frosted proofs all being Ultra Cameo. The sole exception to this grade perfection is the scarce 2007 Washington Dollar lacking edge lettering, as this mint error was made for general circulation. It is nevertheless an impressive MS 67, the highest grade known for this issue.

Coininvestor1943 — *Gold ½ Ounce Panda, 1982-Date, Mint State and Proof*

For 30 years China's series of half-ounce gold Panda coins has delighted collectors and investors. This complete collection is of uniformly high grade, with nothing certified as less than MS or PF 69. There are many standout coins in this set, but some of the highlights include the first-year-of-issue 1982 grading MS 69, the scarce 1994 50 Yuan pieces grading MS 70 and PF 69 Ultra Cameo, respectively, the 1995 50Y in MS 69 and the MS 69 1998 50Y.



Best World Sets

Rudman coleccion — *Philip V, Mexico 8 Escudos, 1732-1747, Circulation Issue*

The milled coinage of Mexico commenced in 1732, and this amazing collection is nearly complete for the massive gold 8 escudos issues of King Philip V by date, mint and variety. Starting out with the rare pieces dated 1732 Mo and 1732 Mo F, these are represented with attractive examples graded XF 45 by NGC. Also a rarity is the 1733 Mo F issue, and this coin is a splendid AU 55 specimen. Other highlights include 1734 Mo MF/F (AU 58) and 1745 Mo MF (MS 62).

tig — *Tig's Swiss 20 Franc Gold Coins*

The series of gold 20 Francs pieces issued by Switzerland from 1897 through 1949 are regarded as simply bullion coins in lower grades, but this charming collection features all choice and gem Mint State examples — the cream of the crop. Complete for all dates, including the scarce 1926B grading MS 67, this set is a noteworthy achievement. Other highlights include 1897B and 1898B certified by NGC as MS 66 and examples of 1927B, 1935LB and 1949B grading MS 67.

TMS Coins — *Half Sovereign Type Set, George III - Elizabeth II, Circulation Issue*

The presentation of this handsome collection begins with a detailed history of both the monarchs depicted on the half sovereign and details of the coins themselves. This whets one's appetite for the listing of coins to follow, and these pieces do not disappoint. All fourteen types coined from 1817 to the present are included, each one a lovely Mint State specimen. Important pieces include 1821 grading NGC MS 64, 1835 (MS 62), 1852 (MS 65) and 2001 (MS 69).

ROBBAKE12157 — *Bakewell South Africa 3 Pence Proof Collection 1923-1960*

Coinage for the Union of South Africa commenced in 1923 and lasted until establishment of the Republic in 1960. This important collection includes an example of each three-pence coin struck in proof finish during that period. Mintages ranged from a low of just 12 pieces in 1932 to as high as 16,000 in

1952. Standout coins include 1926 (PF 64), 1931 (PF 64), and 1932 through 1934, all three graded PF 65 by NGC. The 1944 and 1960 issues each grade a pleasing PF 65 Cameo.

[sbu33 — *British North Borneo, 1882-1941, Complete*](#)

Now known as Sabah, the former Protectorate of British North Borneo had its own coinage struck at the Heaton Mint in Birmingham, England (H mintmark). This lasted until interrupted by World War II, and this delightful collection includes nearly every issue produced during those 60 years. All are scarce to rare in Mint State, and the star of this set is the 1907H half cent graded MS 65 BN by NGC. Other highlights include cents dated 1884H (MS 65 RB) and 1907H (MS 63 BN) and the 1920H 2-1/2 cent piece certified as MS 63.



Best Presented Sets

[Heartland Collection — *Link's Capped Bust Half Dollar Date Set*](#)

This is indeed a complete date set of Capped Bust — Lettered Edge Half Dollars 1807-36. The condition of the coins is uniformly excellent, with grades ranging from MS 64 through MS 67. Nearly every coin is illustrated, and the owner has provided detailed text revealing facts about the coins' varieties and pedigrees. Standout pieces include the scarce 1815 NGC graded MS 66+, 1820 (MS 66), 1823 (MS 67) and 1827 (MS 67).

[coin928 — *USPI-1C*](#)

The one-centavo series of coins for the Philippines 1903-44 was produced by the United States Mints at Philadelphia, San Francisco and Manila. Each piece also carries the legend United States of America. This complete collection is comprised entirely of high grade coins, and each specimen includes a detailed historical presentation and photos. An informative introduction to the series is also provided. Among the noteworthy condition rarities are 1915 S (NGC MS 62 BN) and 1918 S Large S (AU-58 BN).

[moondoggy — *Moondoggy's Franklin Proofs Set 1*](#)

This is a complete collection of Franklin Half Dollar proofs 1950-63, including both reverse types of 1956. All are very high grade for their respective issues, and each coin is accompanied by descriptive text and photos. The owner notes that he completed this set from raw purchases that he then submitted to NGC, rather than buying the coins already certified. Outstanding condition rarities include 1951 (NGC PF 68), 1957 (PF 69 Cameo) and 1961 (PF 69).

[Nemo656 — *Newfy Nuts Victoria 20-25¢*](#)

Newfoundland remained independent of Canada until 1949 and had its own coinage, most of which is very scarce in better grades. This handsome collection includes the series of 20¢ pieces 1865-1912 and the subsequent 25¢ pieces dated 1917C and 1919C. It is lacking just a few coins at the present time. Each entry is illustrated, and the owner has included useful observations about that issue and his own specimen of it. Highlights include the 1872H and 1899 Large 99 20¢ pieces, both NGC graded XF 45.

[Jim Berline — *Jim's Jefferson Set*](#)

The first quarter century of the long-running Jefferson Nickel series is celebrated in this very high grade collection which is nearly complete for all pieces 1938-64. Also included are both reverse types for the three 1939 issues, as well as the very popular 1943/2 P overdate. The owner's enthusiasm for his coins is plainly evident from his personal observations of each specimen and is quite infectious. All the coins are illustrated in their NGC holders. Some of the stars of this set are 1939 Rev of 40 grading NGC MS 67, 1939 S Rev of 38 (MS 67) and 1955 D (MS 65).



Most Creative Custom Set

[Alan Lastufka — *The Symphony Set*](#)

The theme of this collection is coins, medals and tokens relating to music in any way. The owner was drawn to this theme from a life-long love of the music and his career as the owner of an independent recording label. Right now there are just six entries, and he describes the set as a work in progress. None of these are USA issues as yet (suggestion — the 2002 Tennessee quarter with its three musical instruments and sheet music), but there are splendid, high grade pieces to enjoy. Each is accompanied by excellent photos and informative text.



Most Informative Custom Set

[RAM-VT — *The Wonderful World of Ancient Coin Collecting*](#)

The owner of this set confesses to knowing nothing about ancient coins, but he has nevertheless assembled a broad and handsome collection of ancient Greek, Roman, Judean, Byzantine and Celtic coins that many an advanced numismatist

would envy. His extensive introduction reveals the challenges of collecting ancients with limited expertise and funds, something to which many hobbyists can relate. Each coin is well illustrated and accompanied by useful text describing both that specimen and the subject matter it depicts.



Best World Custom Set

[HiHoAudio — *Swiss Shooting Medals \(Beautiful Women\) Set*](#)

This is a remarkable collection that celebrates the beauty of both Swiss Shooting Festival medals and the idealized women who appear on them. Presently consisting of 35 pieces spanning the years 1895-1931, the collection features some very appealing specimens. Nearly all are Mint State, with some highlights including the 1902 Neuchatel issue certified by NGC as MS 67, the 1903 Bern medal (MS 64), the 1905 Solothurn issue grading MS 65 and the 1911 Aargau-Lenzburg medal also graded MS 65 by NGC.



Best Overall Custom Set

[Don “Smitty” Smith — *Heraldic Art Medals*](#)

This huge collection of medals is a tribute to the art of sculptor Robert McNamara, whose series of Heraldic Art Medals were struck in his garage between 1959 and 1978. Themes included events, battles and figures of American history depicted in several metals and varieties. These are the sort of themes commonly found on U. S. postage stamps but rarely committed to medallic art. The owner has dedicated this unique collection to the memory of both his father, who began the collection, and to the late Robert McNamara himself. All are high grade pieces, typically NGC MS 68 or 69.

Collectors’ Journals

The Collectors’ Journal awards are our chance to highlight the great entries by our members. This area of the site is all about collectors sharing their passion for the hobby with each other. We’re proud to give this award to the collectors who have done an outstanding job of journaling their collecting experience.

[JAA USA/Philippines Collection](#)
[gherrmann44](#)

Best in Category

And as always, we have given out the Best in Category awards for the year. A full review of the winners, including lists of the Best in Category winners can be found on our [2012 Awards Archive page](#).

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A Letter from Mark Salzberg

Posted on 1/3/2013

NGC Chairman Mark Salzberg reflects on NGC's last 25 years and his own career in numismatics.

Dear NGC Community:

This year was NGC's 25th anniversary and, as we pass this important milestone, I reflect upon the roots of NGC and my lifelong career in numismatics. In 1979 I attended my first ANA convention in St. Louis as an employee of Randy Block, owner of Raab Rare Coins in Flemington, New Jersey. Another employee of Randy's at that time was John Albanese, who actually first hired me when I was only 11 years old and remains a lifelong friend.



At the 1979 ANA, Randy introduced me to a number of prominent coin dealers, but the most memorable were Ron Iskowitz and Bob Rose — two dealers who helped shape my career as a grader. They showed me some truly outstanding type coins at the show and instructed me on the nuances of Proof Seated Liberty halves from the 1880s. Although I was young and new to the industry, they spent a great deal of time teaching me and had a tremendous impact when I first began my career. I am very grateful to Randy, Ron and Bob. Sadly, Bob is no longer with us to thank in person.

I had a number of similar interactions during my early years in numismatics that ultimately formed the philosophy that has guided NGC for the last 25 years. First and foremost, NGC serves as a positive influence on the coin business. Collectors are a primary focus. We always provide the best possible service, from the most consistent and accurate grading to the best customer service. John Albanese founded NGC with these goals in mind and, although we have grown in size considerably over the last 25 years, we have closely adhered to these guiding principles.

Our long-term philosophy is also reflected by the stability of the NGC management team. I have been with NGC for 25 years along with Ken Krah, a vice president and head of our world coin department. Steve Eichenbaum, CEO of NGC, has been here for 13 years. Rick Montgomery, NGC's president, has been with us for a decade.

Since 1995, NGC has been the official grading service of the American Numismatic Association. Every year, we send graders to teach courses at the ANA Summer Seminar and we provide additional educational resources for their members such as articles for *The Numismatist*. In 2004 NGC was named the official grading service of the Professional Numismatists Guild. NGC also provides significant financial support to the Smithsonian Institution so that people can continue to enjoy access to some of the world's most treasured coins. In 2012 alone we contributed \$100,000 to the Smithsonian Institution.

Our commitment to “do the right thing” has paid off — for many years, NGC has been the world's largest coin grading company. In May, we became the first grading company to certify 25 million coins and, only a few months later, we hit the 26-million-coin mark. This was a particularly memorable year, and I would like to take a few moments to share some of our highlights with you.



Grading Walter Perschke's [Brasher Doubloon](#) in June was undoubtedly one of the crowning achievements of my career. This event was made even more special because two of my earliest friends in numismatics, Ron Iskowitz and John Albanese, guided Walter in his decision to send his Brasher Doubloon to NGC. I feel like my career has come full circle — the same people who started me on my path to become a grader would, after more than three decades, help NGC grade the most valuable coin

ever certified. I am very thankful to Ron and John for all that they have done, and I am honored that Walter trusted NGC to grade and encapsulate his precious coin.

Another important United States rarity was received this year from one of our Authorized Dealers in Europe. This [Proof 1854](#) Eagle was graded NGC PF 55 Cameo and is believed to be unique. One of the benefits of NGC's international expansion is the opportunity to receive great rarities such as this from around the world.

Our world coin department has certified many significant coins this year including

two extremely rare patterns from the Orange Free State in what is now South Africa. One of these patterns, an [1887 Bronze 1 Kroon](#), is believed to be unique. We also certified a fantastic [SP 66 BN Irish 1938 Penny](#) — one of just two known.

The NGC Ancients program, launched only four years ago, has already made a significant impact in that market. Led by noted authority David Vagi, this department certified many spectacular coins in the past year, but two gold aurei of Roman emperors stood out. The first, an aureus of Maximian, A.D. 286–310, was graded MS★ with 5/5 Strike, 4/5 Surface and Fine Style. The other is a Gem MS aureus of Septimius Severus, A.D. 193–211, which boasts 5/5 Strike, 5/5 Surface and Fine Style. Both are among the finest known specimens.



Collectors and dealers choose NGC in greater numbers because of our accurate and consistent grading and the strength of the NGC Guarantee, which we believe is the most comprehensive in the industry. Their support has made NGC the world's largest coin grading company, which ultimately means that there are more buyers and sellers of NGC-certified coins around the world. As a result, NGC-certified coins continue to set record prices when sold at auction or private treaty sale.

NGC has experienced remarkable growth internationally as collectors and dealers around the world realize the value of NGC's expert grading and authentication. They have demonstrated a strong preference for NGC and, at recent shows in Seoul and Beijing, more than 90 percent of the certified coins were graded by NGC. In March we opened an office in Konstanz, Germany, where we process submissions from throughout the European Union. This facility complements our presence in Switzerland, China, South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore. We expect significant growth in international markets in the coming year as we continue to expand our operations.

A particularly important market for NGC is China, where we extended our official submission center agreement with Guangzhou GB in June. We also released the [NGC Chinese Modern Coin Price Guide](#) on www.ngccoin.com, which offers a wealth of information about these interesting coins. These initiatives have resulted in NGC grading more than 500,000 Chinese coins in just a few short years.

In addition to the Chinese Modern Coin Price Guide, we have launched several

innovative online resources in an effort to provide collectors and dealers with the most advanced tools in the industry. We developed [NGC Coin Details](#), a mobile app for the iPhone and Android platform that allows for the use of a smartphone’s camera to scan the barcode on an NGC holder and unlock detailed specifications, descriptions, images and more.

Earlier in the year, we overhauled the NGC Dealer Locator and optimized it for mobile devices. Among other features, you can now use your smartphone’s GPS capabilities to find the nearest NGC Authorized Dealer to your location. We have also made significant improvements to our other web resources, including the NGC Registry, the most popular online coin collecting community. The NGC Registry now offers collectors 3,400 possible set types for more than 80 countries.

The future of NGC looks very bright as we expand and enhance our presence around the world. We now employ more than 25 full-time graders along with a number of consultants, and are on track to certify our 27-millionth coin in early 2013. There are so many people I would like to thank for their support over the last 25 years. I wish all of our thousands of collector and dealer members my best as we begin a new year, and I hope that you will continue to choose NGC.

Best Regards,



Mark Salzberg
Chairman

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NGC World Coin Update

Posted on 1/8/2013

NGC Vice President Ken Krah provides an update on the world coin department.

In the last decade NGC has experienced tremendous growth internationally as collectors and dealers throughout the world realize the value of NGC certification. We now have seven full time world coin graders along with a number of consultants, which results in the most accurate and consistent grading possible. As we finish another successful year, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce you to our world coin grading team.

Jay Turner, Alex Moulinos and I are the primary classic world coin graders and we see every world coin struck prior to 1970 that is submitted to NGC. Our modern world coin department is led by David Camire, who is assisted by Michael Corley, Dan Huntington and Alex Hatch. We also frequently consult outside experts in a variety of specialties. Most recently, we hired Peter Anthony—a well known expert in modern Chinese coins—to serve as a consultant.

A few of our graders previously worked as coin dealers, and most have been with NGC for a number of years. I have been here for 25 years, David Camire for 13, Michael Corley for 10 and Jay Turner for 8. The collective experience and expertise of our world coin graders has resulted in NGC being recognized as the industry leader in grading and collector services.

As a result, NGC has grown to become the world's preferred coin grading service. We have now certified more than 2 million world coins, and that number is expected to increase significantly over the next year. At recent shows in Seoul and Beijing more than 90% of the certified coins were graded by NGC, further solidifying NGC's status as the market leader in Asia. NGC now has affiliates in China, Korea, Taiwan, and Singapore as well as satellite offices in Switzerland and Germany.

NGC has certified a number of outstanding world coin rarities in the past few years, including the only two certified Chinese coins to break the million dollar barrier at auction. There were many stellar world coins submitted in 2012, but a few were particularly exceptional. In April we certified two exceedingly rare South African patterns, one of which—an [1887 Bronze 1 Kroon](#)—is believed to be unique. Several months later we graded an [Irish 1938 Penny SP 66 BN](#), a coin that is known by a mere two examples. Just a few weeks ago we graded 12 spectacular Polish gold coins from the 19th century that will be sold at auction in February.



As we expand our world coin department in the future we will continue to provide the same expert grading that has made NGC the trusted authority for world coin certification. On behalf of the entire NGC world coin grading team, I would like to thank all of you for your support.

Best regards,

Ken Krah
Vice President

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12 Important Polish Gold Coins Offered At Auction

Posted on 1/16/2013

Twelve NGC-certified 19th-century Polish coins will be offered in the Feb. 4 St. James's Auctions.

[St. James's Auctions](#) in London, England, will offer a dozen rare and high grade 19th century Polish gold coins in its February 4, 2013 auction. All of the coins have been certified by NGC.

One particular standout is the 1840MW 20 Zlotych – 3 Roubles, graded NGC PF 64, which is one of just 26 specimens struck. The 1823 IB 50 Zlotych in NGC MS 64 is another superb example with nearly prooflike fields. A final highlight is the NGC MS 61 1827 FH 50 Zlotych – a rare coin in any grade, but particularly elusive in Mint State.

Click [here](#) to view the gallery on NGC's website.

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United States

Heritage Auctions Integrates with NGC Coin Explorer

Posted on 1/15/2013

Heritage Auctions is linking to the popular NGC Coin Explorer, an online resource for US coins.

Numismatic Guaranty Corporation® (NGC®) announces that Heritage Auctions (HA.com) is linking to the popular NGC Coin Explorer online resource for US coins. Beginning with its January 9-14, 2012 FUN Show Signature and Platinum sales, nearly every auction lot listed the coin's NGC ID number with a link to the NGC Coin Explorer.

The [NGC Coin Explorer](#) is a free online tool with images, specifications, description and analysis, NGC Price Guide and Census data, NGC Registry scores and auction information for US coins. It is available on the NGC website, [ngccoin.com](#), and the NGC Mobile website, [m.ngccoin.com](#). In August 2012 NGC also released the [NGC Coin Details](#) smartphone app for iPhones and Androids, which contains much of the same information as the NGC Coin Explorer resource.

“Collectors and dealers use the NGC Coin Explorer to make more informed buying and selling decisions,” says Mark Salzberg, NGC Chairman. “We’re delighted that Heritage is linking to the relevant pages, and we invite other dealers and auction houses to do the same. The NGC ID numbers and NGC Coin Explorer will always remain free to all users – NGC’s gift to the numismatic fraternity.”

Heritage Auctions Co-Chairman Jim Halperin added, “By adding NGC ID numbers that link to the NGC Coin Explorer in each lot, Heritage Auctions now provides its website visitors with even greater access than ever before to rich, free educational resources.”

The NGC ID number is a four digit alphanumeric that groups coins based on a

unique combination of date, mintmark, denomination, and striking process (MS, PF or SP). These IDs are a simple organization of all coins prior to grading. Currently used for US coins, NGC intends to expand this system to cover all world coins.

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United States

NGC Accepting Submissions at Long Beach Expo

Posted on 1/24/2013

NGC will be accepting submissions for all regular service levels at the Long Beach Expo.

NGC will be accepting regular submissions for all service levels* at the [Long Beach Expo](#), at the Long Beach Convention Center in Long Beach, CA on Thursday, February 7 to Saturday, February 9, 2013. All submissions will be sent to our office in Sarasota, FL. Services include World Services, Ancient Coin Services, Bulk, PHOTO PROOF® and more. Check with show representatives for details. Cut-off time for all submissions will be 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 9. NGC will be at booth 401.

Note:

- Due to the special handling required, NGC does not accept submissions of the following coins at this show for regular service submissions to be returned to the NGC offices: Coins over 3.5" (90 mm) in diameter and .39" (10 mm) in depth, San Francisco 2-coin Proof set, Coin & Currency sets, 25th Anniversary Eagles, 20th Anniversary Eagles, Early Releases, American Liberty Series and 10th Anniversary Platinum Sets. These submissions must be sent directly to Sarasota, FL, by the submitter.
- *Does not include 5-ounce coins.

Questions should be directed to NGC customer service at service@NGCcoin.com or 1-800-NGC-COIN (642-2646).

Visit our table for answers to any questions about the services offered by NGC. Please remember that NGC does not provide opinions or free evaluations of coins at trade shows.

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NGC Ancients: The Flavian Dynasty

Posted on 1/15/2013

This month, NGC examines the coinage and times of the Flavian dynasty, which held power in Rome during the years AD 69–96.

***Finally, when his companions** unanimously insisted on his trying to escape from the miserable fate threatening him, he ordered them to dig a grave at once, and then collect any pieces of marble that they could find and fetch wood and water for the disposal of the corpse. As they bustled about obediently he muttered through his tears: "Dead! And so great an artist!"*



-Suetonius, on Nero's suicide.

When Nero committed suicide on June 9th, AD 68, his death brought an end to the Julio-Claudian dynasty, which had maintained control of the Roman Empire for almost a century, dating from the rise of Augustus in 27 BC. Unsurprisingly, a vicious struggle for supreme leadership soon ensued, in what would become known as "the year of the four emperors." In the period AD 68-69, no less than four candidates would attempt to fill the void left by the death of Nero – Galba, Otho, Vitellius, and, ultimately, Vespasian.

***The empire, which for a long time** had been unsettled and, as it were, drifting, through the usurpation and violent death of three emperors, was at last taken in hand and given stability by the Flavian family.*

-Suetonius, on the rise of the Flavians.

The eventual victor, Vespasian (AD 69-79), was a man of humble origins. Born the

son of a tax collector, he earned military renown in the 40s during Claudius' invasion of Britain. He was awarded the governorship of Judaea in early 67, and had succeeded in bringing most of that region to submission by the time of Nero's death in 68. Watching carefully as a succession of would-be rulers fell during 68-69, he finally took action in July, 69, (during the short-lived emperorship of Vitellius) launching what was in effect a slow invasion of Italy from Syria. Proclaimed emperor by the Senate on December 21, 69, Vespasian did not actually set foot in Rome until October of 70, at which point he began the long process of restoring the Empire to glory after a bitter year of civil war.



This gold aureus, struck in about 70, depicts the newly-hailed emperor on its obverse and the goddess Aequitas on the reverse. This coin displays “boscoreale” toning, the product of being buried in the ashes of Mt. Vesuvius

(erupted AD 79) for millennia. The hoard was discovered in 1895, and the coins are distinguished by their distinctive red and blue hues.

In all, Vespasian reigned for ten years, from 69-79. He proved to be a very able ruler, and undertook many building projects in the West, including beginning the Colosseum at Rome (though he did not live to see its completion). He died on June 24, 79.

Titus, of the same surname as his father, was the delight and darling of the human race; such surpassing ability had he, by nature, art, or good fortune, to win the affections of all men, and that, too, which is no easy task, while he was emperor; for as a private citizen, and even during his father's rule, he did not escape hatred, much less public criticism.

-Suetonius, on Titus.

Vespasian had two sons, Titus and Domitian, in whom he placed his hopes of continuing a ruling dynasty. Titus was an able military commander in his own right, and was tasked with ending the revolt in Judaea after the departure of Vespasian for Rome in 70. After accomplishing this task, he immediately set sail for Italy, arriving in 71. In the near-decade before he succeeded his father to the purple, Titus served ably as prefect of the Praetorian Guard and carried on a controversial relationship with the Jewish queen Berenice. He filled the offices of both Caesar and Imperator from 69-79, though he was relatively unpopular with the Roman people for a host of reasons – his love affair with a Jewish queen and striking resemblance to Nero certainly did not help matters.

This extremely rare copper sestertius, struck in 80/1, commemorates the opening of the Colosseum in 80. The obverse depicts this structure, while the reverse portrays the emperor himself seated on a curule chair and surrounded by a pile of arms. Less than ten examples of this piece are believed to be held in private (i.e. non-museum) collections.



Despite the fact his reign only lasted about 27 months (AD 79-81), Titus proved to be an excellent ruler who eventually won the acclaim of the Roman people. As mentioned, he dedicated the Colosseum in June of 80, and enjoyed cordial relations with the Senate, because he refused to put senators to death or to confiscate property. He died September 13, 81, a few months before his 42nd birthday.

From his youth he was far from being of an affable disposition, but was on the contrary presumptuous and unbridled both in act and in word. When his father's concubine Caenis returned from Histria and offered to kiss him as usual, he held out his hand to her. He was vexed that his brother's son-in law had attendants clad in white, as well as he, and uttered the words, "Not good is a number of rulers."

-Suetonius, on Domitian.

Titus was succeeded by his brother, Domitian (AD 81-96), who was to be the last of the ruling Flavians. For much of his life, this younger son of Vespasian was overshadowed by his brother, with whom he had a difficult relationship. Domitian possessed many of the same talents as his brother and father, with the exception of money management. He had to rely on heavy taxation, confiscation of property, and debased coinage to compensate for an enormous fiscal commitment to the Army.



This silver denarius, minted 77-8 while Domitian was still Caesar, features a portrait of the future emperor on the obverse and the she-wolf with twins Romulus and Remus (the foundation myth of Rome) on the reverse.

Under the reign of Domitian, the pay of a soldier was increased from 300 to 400 denarii per year – he believed it best to spend large sums of money on the Army, which considered him to be a great benefactor.

Due to numerous (failed) plots against his life and would-be revolts, Domitian had become a despot by about 93. He executed senators and noblemen at an alarming rate, a practice that eventually led to his murder in 96. A palace coup was hatched, and Domitian was hacked to death, about a month before his 45th birthday, bringing an abrupt end to the Flavian Dynasty. An overjoyed Senate quickly elected the elderly Nerva to fill the emperorship, beginning the age of the “adoptive emperors.”

Images courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group.

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United States

Counterfeit Detection: 1908-S Indian Head Cent

Posted on 1/15/2013

The grading room was recently presented with a 1908-S Indian Head Cent for certification.

The 1908-S cent had the third-lowest mintage in the Indian Head cent series with 1,115,000 pieces struck. The first of only two San Francisco Mint Indian Head cents, the 1908-S can trade for more than \$100 in average circulated grades according to the NGC US Coin Price Guide. This creates an opportunity for a counterfeiter, and although fake 1908-S Indian Head cents are less common than their 1877 and 1909-S counterparts, they are seen occasionally.



Counterfeit 1908-S Indian Head Cent
Click images to enlarge.

One such fake was recently identified by NGC graders. This 1908-S has several issues that become apparent at first glance. Perhaps most obviously, the appearance of the digits in the date does not match the letters in UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. While the letters are boldly defined as typically seen on Indian Head cents, the date is weak and misshapen. A closer inspection reveals flaws in a few letters, such as the spur below the U in UNITED. Other letters are

blurred or indistinct.

There are several lumps in the obverse field, particularly above and to the right of the headdress. The reverse also has several raised lines near the denticles. These raised areas are common features of counterfeits and are virtually never seen on genuine specimens.

The obverse of this counterfeit is significantly worse than the reverse and possesses many diagnostics to help identify it. The counterfeiter has probably used the same reverse design to produce 1909-S Indian Head cents, and there may be other dates that possess similar features. While these fakes can often be easily detected, it is important to always look closely at the coin, particularly the better dates.

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United States

USA Coin Album: Liberty Head Nickels - Part Two

Posted on 1/25/2013

In this month's column, David looks at the remaining issues from 1884 through 1912.

The large mintages of nickel five-cent pieces during 1882-84 was more than enough to meet the demand during the two years that followed. A brief recession during 1884-85 further reduced the need for additional nickels, which was just as well, as the Philadelphia Mint was having some difficulty with its supplier of five-cent blanks (only rarely did the US Mints manufacture their own blanks for minor coins, and both the price and quality of the pieces provided by commercial vendors varied over the years).



The mintage of nickels thus fell to just 1,472,700 coins in 1885, making this date the key issue of the Liberty Head nickel series. The 1886 nickel is not much easier to find, as its mintage amounted to only 3,326,000. Given the high attrition rate of Liberty Head nickels, it's easy to see how these two dates have become very scarce. There were no collectors of this series from circulation until the 1920s, at the very earliest, so their survival in anything but heavily worn condition is remarkable. In actual fact, both dates typically exist today in grades ranging from Poor-1 to Very Good-8. There is also a small cluster of Mint State coins and pieces grading About Uncirculated-50 through -58 as the result of mishandling, but 1885-86 nickels falling between these two extremes are very elusive.

Conditions returned to normal for 1887 and the next few years, with annual mintages of 10 to 17 million nickels being typical. The US economy tumbled again in 1893 and remained very troubled for the next two-three years. Mintages below 10 million pieces were the order of the day 1894-96 until prosperity returned in

1897. The production of Liberty Head nickels surged to more than 20 million coins that year, and there was no looking back after that. During the remainder of this series the annual coinage of nickels fell below 20 million only twice (1898 and 1909). The pinnacle of production was reached in 1911 when the Philadelphia Mint cranked out some 39,557,639 Liberty Head nickels.

This rising mintage was more than the Mint's budget could handle, as it produced minor coins under a fixed annual appropriation of \$50,000 that had been in place since 1873. This figure was ultimately raised following pleas from the Mint Director, but the real solution was not arrived at until the Mint was permitted to apply some of its seigniorage (profit) on the coining of minor pieces toward future coin production instead of returning it to the Treasury's General Fund.

The relatively low-mintage nickels of 1894-96 are scarce in the most popular collector grades of Fine-12 through Mint State-64, but this fact is barely reflected in their respective market values. Only the 1894 issue carries a substantial premium over the dates immediately preceding and following. From 1897 onward, there are no Philadelphia Mint Liberty Head nickels that may be called scarce, and collectors can be very choosy when purchasing these later dates.

The year 1912 provided two milestones, as both the Denver and San Francisco Mints coined nickels for the first time. The initial run of 1912-D nickels was delivered on February 5, and about 8-1/2 million were struck by year's end. The San Francisco Mint did not strike its first nickels until December 24, and a mere 238,000 Liberty Head pieces bearing the 'S' mintmark were coined before the calendar turned over to 1913. The 1912-S nickel enjoyed a special honor in that the first one struck was used by San Francisco Mayor James "Sunny Jim" Rolph to inaugurate service on that city's municipal street railway, December 28, 1912. It was reportedly presented to the City Treasurer for preservation, but I could not locate this historic coin when I was researching an article on the event in the 1980s. Despite its very low mintage, the 1912-S nickel is only scarce, not rare, as it was coined late enough that collectors filling coin boards in the 1930s were able to preserve a disproportionate number of this issue for the future.

Proofs were coined for each date of Liberty Head nickels, aside from the two Denver and San Francisco coins. Their mintages range from a low of 1,475 in 1907 to a high of 6,783 for the 1883 with CENTS issue. There is no great difference in rarity between the various dates in lesser grades, but the availability of gems is another matter. The scarcity of Mint State currency strikes dated 1885-86 has boosted the values of proofs for these two years, but in reality they are of similar rarity to other proofs in the series.

In last month’s column I mentioned that my circulated set of Liberty Head nickels was lacking only the 1886 issue to be complete. Well, all the holes are now filled. I hadn’t thought much about this series until writing that column, and it prompted me to seek out the last remaining coin. I found an uncertified example online that graded VG-10 in my estimation and seemed from the photos to have original surfaces and no problems. To my delight, I was the only bidder and won this lot at a price below its catalog value. Apprehensive until it finally arrived, I was pleased to discover that my initial impression of the coin was correct, and now my set is complete.

David W. Lange's column, "USA Coin Album," appears monthly in the Numismatist, the official publication of the [American Numismatic Association](#).

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United States

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NumisMedia Market Report: Vasquez Rocks Collection Intrigues Gold Dollar Collectors

Posted on 1/15/2013

It is not very often that we get the opportunity to write about the sale of a major collection of a particular series. Typically, sales of remarkable collections occur in a fast-paced auction format where bidders compete for every lot.

However, the advanced collector of the Vasquez Rocks Collection of high grade Gold Dollars is taking a different approach. He selected Douglas Winter Numismatics for the sale, one of the foremost dealers of US Gold in the country. Mr. Winter's expertise, tremendous background, and of course his ability to market coins that have a wonderful story makes him the logical and wise choice for the sale of this fascinating collection.

The Vasquez Rocks Collection was 18 years in the making, and it may not be the finest collection of One Dollar Gold ever assembled, but it surely ranks near the top. The collector is so fanatical about not only purchasing the best coin for the money but also the best quality coin for the grade. In this case, the One Dollar Gold series was a particular challenge, albeit quite enjoyable for the collector. It takes a wealth of knowledge to understand all the intricacies of each date in the One Dollar Gold series. We are similarly aware of another major collector who is on path for the highest graded One Dollar Gold series as well. In fact, he purchased two of the highest graded coins from this set.

Many of the better dates and grades from the Vasquez Rocks Collection of One Dollar Gold are charted below. For comparison we have also listed the current FMV, the number of coins certified by NGC and PCGS combined at a higher grade, and the highest grade certified for the date.

| Date | Grade | Current FMV | #Coins Grading Higher | Highest Grade |
|------|-------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|------|-------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------|

| | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|----------|----|-------|
| 1849 C Cl. Wreath | MS63 CAC | \$17,190 | 2 | MS 64 |
| 1849 O | MS64 CAC | \$7,060 | 12 | MS 66 |
| 1850 C | MS 62 | \$20,630 | 3 | MS 63 |
| 1850 D | MS63 | \$30,230 | 2 | MS 64 |
| 1851 D | MS63+ CAC | \$15,440 | 7 | MS 65 |
| 1852 C | MS64 CAC | \$17,810 | 5 | MS 66 |
| 1853 O | MS66 CAC | \$38,350 | 1 | MS 67 |
| 1854 D | MS62 | \$17,550 | 2 | MS 64 |
| 1855 D | MS61 | \$56,250 | 7 | MS 64 |
| 1856 D | MS60 | \$32,830 | 9 | MS 63 |
| 1856 S | MS64 CAC | \$54,380 | 0 | MS 64 |
| 1857 D | MS61 CAC | \$13,750 | 10 | MS 62 |
| 1858 S | MS62 CAC | \$14,760 | 3 | MS 65 |
| 1860 D | MS62 CAC | \$35,750 | 2 | MS 64 |
| 1860 S | MS65 | \$46,150 | 0 | MS 65 |
| 1861 D | MS61 | \$70,630 | 11 | MS 65 |
| 1868 | MS68 | \$29,250 | 0 | MS 68 |
| 1875 | MS65 CAC | \$37,190 | 3 | MS 66 |
| 1877 | MS67 CAC | \$11,560 | 9 | MS 68 |

There were a total of 83 coins in this set. As mentioned earlier, this collector took his time looking for quality. Before announcing the sale, the majority of coins were sent to the grading services for the + designation and also to CAC to see which coins would receive the ultimate sticker. This meticulous strategy paid off as 39 of these coins received the CAC sticker. Ten of those coins attained both the + and CAC features and one other received only the + designation.

Ultimately, it takes time to complete any series. It will also take an appreciation for the history of coins, especially those dating in the 1800s, understanding most importantly that the minting process was not nearly as advanced as it is today. Thus, strike, die characteristics, planchet marks, eye appeal, original mintage, and certainly the number of coins certified by NGC and PCGS are all important to the individual collector. Be sure to remember that the time spent in studying each and every coin can be its own reward in the end.

This article is a guest article written by:



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United States

From the NGC Archives: 1837 Seated Liberty Dime

Posted on 1/15/2013

Robert M. Patterson became the US Mint's new director in 1835. He had very definite ideas about America's coinage, and one of his favorite icons was the seated figure of Britannia, which had been a fixture on many British coins for years.

Mr. Patterson had the seated figure of Britannia translated to the goddess Liberty, as seen on this dime from 1837.



The first year of coinage for the Seated Liberty Dime featured two distinctive date styles. This Small Date variety was evidently coined second, after the curious public had set aside their souvenirs. Walter Breen noted that this variety is much rarer in mint state than the Large Date. A delightful gem, this attractive dime is boldly struck and displays very clean surfaces. Coined from lightly worn dies, the result is richly textured luster throughout. This beauty exhibits just a faint suggestion of pewter gray toning around its peripheries but is otherwise frosty white.

Are you interested in learning more about these coins? Click [here](#) to visit the NGC Coin Explorer and read on.

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United States

World Coins: Swiss 1994 Devil's Bridge Commemorative

Posted on 1/15/2013

A Swiss commemorative coin captures a folk legend, a structure and the devil all at once.

When it comes to coins, commemoratives are beyond abundant. It seems that countries all over the world are issuing coins to celebrate, remember, or promote a theme. Yet only one commemorative captures folk legend, a structure, and the devil all in one. In 1994, Switzerland released a coin commemorating the Devil's Bridge Teufelsbrücke.

The Teufelsbrücke is the bridge over the Schöllenen Gorge in the Swiss canton of Uri. Throughout Europe there are several devil's bridges with a different folktale associated to each one. Often the bridges were very complicated to build, so it was believed that the work could only be completed with the help of the devil. The folktale of Teufelsbrücke is that the original wooden bridge was so difficult and dangerous to build that the devil offered to build a new stone bridge in exchange for the soul of the first person to walk across it. When the bridge was completed, the villagers sent a goat across the bridge to trick the devil out of one of their souls. The devil was so angry by this that he picked up a large stone called Teufelsstein or the devils stone to destroy the bridge. On his way to the bridge the devil met a pious woman wearing a cross, which scared the devil causing it to drop the stone and flee. Teufelsstein today is still near Göschenen and weighs 220 tons.

The true story is that the bridge, which was needed as a pass over the Schöllenen Gorge, was built in 1230. Made of wood, the bridge often need repaired due to damage caused by the Swiss climate. Rebuilt in stone sometime in the 1500s, the bridge continued to earn its reputation when it was the scene of a battle during the Napoleonic Wars and sustained heavy damage. A new bridge built in 1820 took 10 years to complete, demonstrating the difficulty of the task. In 1888, the first

bridge was destroyed in a storm. A new bridge, built in 1958, is used to accommodate the heavy traffic. While today Devils Bridge is believed to be only a fable, there are still believers of the tale. In 1977, Teufelsstein was moved to make way for a new motorway. Locals believe this action caused a rise in car accidents on the road because the devil’s rock was moved.

In 1994, the Swiss government issued a commemorative coin for the Teufelsbrücke. The obverse features a stylized scene by artist Peter Emch’s of his interpretation of the devil holding the Teufelsstein approaching the Teufelsbrücke. The reverse features the denomination of 20 Fr (Francs), Confoederatio Helvetica (Switzerland), and 1994 in a stylized cross. The Swiss Mint at Bern issued 184,868 uncirculated examples and 32,195 proof coins.



The coin may have been minted in 1994, but the story it represents dates back over 700 years. While commemoratives are issued worldwide for what seems like everything today, sometimes the story that a coin is trying to depict can be interesting if one takes the time to research it.

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Chinese Coins: Hé Wéi Guì. Harmony is Prized.

Posted by Peter Anthony on 1/18/2013

The desire for harmony is everywhere in Chinese culture and daily life, and numismatics is no exception.

One of the first steps to collecting Chinese coins should be to understand why some coins are prized and others not. Collectors who are familiar with the factors that determine the price of other nations' coins step into a different world with Chinese numismatics. While rarity and condition are certainly important, there are other considerations too.

Perhaps the best place to begin is with the idea of harmony. The desire for harmony is everywhere in Chinese culture and daily life and numismatics is no exception. It is said in China that harmony is prized, "hé wéi guì." If you ever take a taxi ride in China, it is interesting to observe traffic as your driver weaves in and out of impossibly small breaks in the flow of cars. It always amazes me that despite what appears to be total chaos there are remarkably few cars on the road with dents and scrapes.

It reminds me of how long ago an Englishman stood by the Huangpu river in Shanghai. As he watched swarms of boats navigate its waters he commented that you couldn't put half that many boats on the Thames without having numerous collisions. I think the reason is harmony. People in China are less assertive that a certain space belongs to them and instinctively avoid the conflict an accident creates. As a writer in the *People's Daily* put it, "(harmony) advocates, diversity and balance and 'arriving at the same destination by different routes, reaching unanimity after taking many things into consideration.'"

This search for harmony is felt in the world of coins, too. The *People's Daily* writer adds, "Gathering different things together and making them balanced is called 'harmony.'" A set of coins is called a tao. The makeup of a tao is flexible, but the

owner of the set must feel that it is balanced, complete and harmonious.

Until a few years ago the desire for sets was so strong that there was no market to speak of for single coins or for broken sets. For example, if a four-coin set was worth \$200, then how much was one coin worth? Was it worth \$50? No. Was it worth \$40? No. How about \$20? No. There was simply no interest in one coin out of a set unless that coin was very special.

Single coins are more sellable today, but not really because they are in demand as single coins. The demand for them is directly related to how many are needed to form sets. A good example can be found in the gold Panda series. One of the most popular kinds of sets is the year set. It takes the five B.U. denominations from 1 oz. down to 1/20 oz. from a single year and groups them into a Tao.



China 2013 Gold Panda Series
Click image to enlarge.

One of the keys to understanding Chinese numismatics is to recognize how the sense of Tao influences demand and value. NGC recognizes the importance of Tao. The NGC World Coin Census can be used to determine how difficult it is to form a full set of graded coins. Coins that are encapsulated in NGC holders make attractive sets that enhance their value, and create a harmonious presentation. That's a good thing because, Hé wéi guì, harmony is prized.

Peter Anthony is an expert on Chinese modern coins with a particular focus on Panda coins. He as an analyst for NGC's Chinese Modern Coin Price Guide as well as a consultant on Chinese modern coins.

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 United States 

2013 US Mint America the Beautiful Quarters

Posted on 1/15/2013

This set features all five of the 2013 America the Beautiful quarters struck in silver in proof condition, protectively encased in a clear plastic lens and newly designed packaging.

[Washington, D.C.] — Explore the country while starting or expanding your collection with the 2013 United States Mint America the Beautiful Quarters Silver Proof Set available today! Now see the beauty of our national sites on our new packaging too!



The 2013 edition features the fourth release of five quarters in the America the Beautiful Quarters® Program. In 2013, the sites featured are White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire, Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial in Ohio, Great Basin National Park in Nevada, Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine in Maryland and Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota. Each quarter bears the "S" mint mark of the United States Mint at San Francisco.

For more information visit the [US Mint](#).

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United States

New York World Coin Auction Realizes Nearly \$12 Million

Posted on 1/15/2013

A pattern gold Crown struck for Queen Victoria, which was graded NGC Proof 64 Ultra Cameo, sold for \$235,000.

Rare gold from around the world led the way as the [Heritage Ancient & World Coin Signature Auction](#) realized over \$11.8 million overall January 6-7 in New York.

All prices include a 17.5% Buyer's Premium.

Taking top honors in this auction was a [pattern gold Crown struck for Queen Victoria, graded Proof 64 Ultra Cameo](#), which sold for \$235,000. This ultra-rare, undated piece was struck in 1887 in Nuremberg, Germany. The obverse was patterned after the famous William Wyon young head portrait of Victoria, while the reverse devices include the Order of the Garter crest supported by a crowned lion and a unicorn in chains. The designer of this piece is unverified, as the artist did not sign the dies for this piece.

Gold ingots from Brazil are extremely rare in private hands, and those with the original certificate, the *Guia* doubly so. A [Brazilian ingot of Serro Frio, 1832](#), one of only 6-8 surviving ingots with *Guia*, sold for \$188,000 in New York. This piece boasts a pedigree going back over 100 years and was likely one of the last such ingots struck, as research done by prominent Brazilian numismatist Kurt Prober lists a single 1833 example. The vast majority of Brazilian ingots reside in museums and institutions. Another Brazilian ingot, [this one from Goias 1821](#), sold for \$99,875.

Just a few of the other highlights of this auction included:

- [Russia: Elizabeth I Dassier Rouble 1757 яl, Bitkin 282, AU Details NGC](#)
- [Salzburg. Wolf Dietrich Von Raitenau \(1587-1612\) gold 8 Ducats 1594, Fr-674 Probszt 715, MS63 NGC](#)
- [Great Britain: George III pattern gold 2 guineas 1768, S-3724, WR-79, KM-Pn49, plain edge, PR62 NGC](#)
- [Great Britain: George II gold pattern 2 Guineas 1733, Young Laureate Head, S-3667, WR-69 \(rated R5, 6-10 known\), KM-Pn37, plain edge, PR63 NGC](#)

Our January numismatic auctions continue through January 16, with bidding continuing in the [FUN US Coin](#) auction, the [FUN Currency](#) auction, and the [NYINC World Coin Non-Floor](#) session, Overall, these auctions are expected to exceed \$65 million in sales, getting the new year off to a fast start.

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